that various changes and modifications may be made without
departing from the spirit and scope of the invention which is
defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1   1. A method for correcting the clock in an digital video

2   data stream transmitted in packets over a network, said

3   method comprising the steps of:

4   a. placing said video packets in an output FIFO memory;

5   b. outputting data from said output FIFO according to a

6   clock rate or bit rate that is adjustable;

7   c. filtering the level of data in said output FIFO to

8   produce a current average level and a previous

9   average level; and

10   d. changing said adjustable clock rate or bit rate

11   according to said current average level and said

12   previous average level;

13   whereby said output FIFO level is driven towards a

14   predetermined target level.

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2. The method of Claim 1 wherein in step d the adjustable clock is changed according to the relationship:

if $|(aveFifoLevelCurrent - TargetLevel)| < |(aveFifoLevelPrevious - TargetLevel)|$ then the $BitRateChange = MinBitRateChange$;

if $aveFifoLevelCurrent > TargetLevel > FifoLevelPrevious$ or if $aveFifoLevelCurrent < TargetLevel < aveFifoLevelPrevious$ then $BitRateChangeDir = -BitRateChangeDir$, and $BitRateChange = MinBitRateChange$;

if $|(aveFifoLevelCurrent - TargetLevel)| > |(aveFifoLevelPrevious - TargetLevel)|$ then $BitRateChange = 2 * BitRateChange$.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein in Step d the rate at which said clock is changed is limited to a maximum rate in accordance with at least one predetermined specification.

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